

West Chester, PA —Environmental advocates from across the District and Philadelphia region gathered today to demand government action to address the crisis of global warming and climate change. They came together as part of The National Day of Climate Action/Step It Up 2007 initiative. At this event at West Chester United Methodist Church, approximately 150 local residents congregated to voice their opinions about current nation's energy policy and the need to drastically revise it. — One of the featured speakers, Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA), told the audience that the growing problem of climate change is a national security issue requiring a response similar to the focus our nation has placed on homeland security.

“Climate change is a significant national and global security issue,” Congressman Sestak said. “I stand with the people of my District and in the Delaware Valley who recognize the peril that exists if we do not take action and continue to ignore the warning signs of environmental degradation that could be irreversible. I believe America must reduce its dependence on foreign oil and make greater investments in environmentally-friendly alternative and renewable energy resources, and our government must place a higher priority on protecting the health of American families by addressing unacceptable levels of pollution in our air and water.”

The event was hosted by the West Chester Alliance for Global Warming Awareness, a coalition of environmental organizations in the Chester and Delaware county area. Among the participants in the event were representatives of the Penn Future PA Interfaith Climate Change Campaign, Borough Leaders United for Emissions Reduction, Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, the Brandywine Valley Association, Maysies Farm Conservation Center, as well as area businesses that provide geothermal and solar power services.

During his remarks, Congressman Sestak discussed the crucial need to work with area businesses to help them access more economical and ecologically-appropriate energy resources, such as renewable electric power, the installation of solar panels, the purchase of energy-efficient vehicles, and the construction of energy-efficient buildings. “This can be a win-win for us right now,” the Congressman said. “What’s good for the environment can also be good for business.”

The Congressman leant his support to one of the number one issues addressed by the National Day of Climate Change organizers, the need to create more “green jobs” and to train our workforce to work in careers such as solar panel manufacturing and green building construction. The Congressman recently voted in favor of the New Direction for Energy Dependence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act, which provides \$125 million in funding to establish national and state job training programs to train a quality workforce for “green” jobs, and to address job shortages that are impairing the growth of green industries.

Congressman Sestak has been a strong supporter of aggressive legislation to address climate change, including co-sponsoring two bills, the Safe Climate Act of 2007 (H.R. 1590) and the Climate Stewardship Act (H.R. 620) to aggressively reduce carbon emissions. Additionally, he voted to increase funding, \$24 million above the President’s request in the Energy and Water Appropriation bill, for climate change research including: modeling using state-of-the-art super

computers; monitoring radiation in the atmosphere; and long-term experiments on the impact of increased carbon dioxide levels on forests and other ecosystems.

Following the recent release of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Environment Outlook report, the Congressman addressed fears that--as stated in the report--"humanity is at risk" if we fail to take decisive action to address climate change, extinction rates, and hunger. "We must have moral leadership in Washington," the Congressman said. "We must ensure that our next president makes the protection of our environment a signature issue for the next decade. I am confident that the people of this nation possess the resolve to work with our neighbors throughout the world to save our planet and provide our children and grandchildren with the future they deserve."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.